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The *Natural Resources Forum* was first launched in 1976 by the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport, and is currently issued by the Division for Sustainable Development in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The *Forum* has evolved over the years from a journal mainly concerned with technical issues of extraction, development and efficient exploitation of resources to one which seeks to meet the need for an international, multidisciplinary journal focussed on sustainable development and management of natural resources, mainly in developing countries. In recent years, following the growing importance of social policy and programmes at the UN, the journal's editorial policy has also shifted to socio-economic aspects of sustainable development of water, energy and mineral resources.

The *Natural Resources Forum* seeks to spread knowledge of subjects of current global concern, and to stimulate discussion. The ideas presented in the journal are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations. Authors are fully responsible for their statements, and publication of articles does not imply official UN or DESA policy or endorsement. While the Editorial Board of the journal may not always support the ideas contained in the articles featured, it is our belief that a free, open-ended discussion—a *Forum*—of ideas, will eventually give rise to plausible alternatives that can be of real use to the international community.

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